

From the Editor

The current issue of OCEANOLOGIA 56(4) 2014 brings to a close the very long publishing period, during which the Publisher and the Owner of this journal was the Institute of Oceanology (IO), Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), in conjunction with the Committee for Marine Research PAN. Beginning with the next issue of OCEANOLOGIA, 57(1) 2015, subsequent issues of the journal will be published by Elsevier on the basis of a Production and Hosting publishing contract signed on behalf of IO PAN by IO's Director Prof. Dr Janusz Pempkowiak. IO PAN will remain the journal's owner with the right to full copyright. The Editor-in-Chief, appointed by the director of IO PAN, will select the articles to be published. At this turning point in the journal's history we now present a brief account of the publishing of OCEANOLOGIA from its inception to the present moment, and recall some of the people who have been involved in editing the journal during those many years.

The journal OCEANOLOGIA came into being on the initiative of Professor Stanisław Szymborski (Photo 1), the then Director of PAN's Marine Station at Sopot, and at the same time the scientific secretary of the Committee for Marine Research PAN. Though first published



Photo 1. Professor Stanisław Szymborski,
Editor-in-Chief of OCEANOLOGIA
from 1971 to 1983

under the auspices of that Committee, the editorial staff were always from the Marine Station which, in time, grew to become today's Institute of Oceanology PAN (see Dera J., Massel S., Wyrwiński J., 2013, *60 years of*

the Institute of Oceanology PAN, Sopot: people, events and achievements. Wyd. Instytut Oceanologii PAN, Sopot, 216 pp., in Polish). The first issue of OCEANOLOGIA, No. 1 (108 pp.) appeared in 1971.

Originally published in Polish (with English summaries), this journal gave Polish scientists an opportunity to publish their papers in Oceanology at a time when access to the world literature was severely restricted for



Photo 2. Barbara Szczutkowska,
Editorial Secretary of OCEANOLOGIA
from 1973 to 1987

both political and financial reasons. At that time, of course, we had no computers and the Internet had not yet come into existence. Issues of OCEANOLOGIA appeared at irregular intervals, as and when a sufficient number of articles had accumulated to fill an issue. The economic difficulties in communist Poland were reflected in the technical quality of the journal: the same quality of paper for printing and the same colour of the cover could not be guaranteed for consecutive issues. Issue No. 2 of OCEANOLOGIA (243 pp.) did not appear until 1973, but in 1975 three issues were published: No. 3 (132 pp.), No. 4 (200 pp.) and No. 5 (185 pp.). This was in large part due to the very energetic Barbara Szczutkowska (Photo 2), who was Editorial Secretary from 1973 until 1987 and did a highly professional job of organising the editorial office. From Issue No. 5 onwards, most articles were published in English.

In 1983, the Committee for Marine Research PAN elected Professor Jerzy Dera (Photo 3) as Editor-in-Chief, a post which he holds to this day, having been elected by the Committee for successive terms of office.



Photo 3. Professor Jerzy Dera,
Editor-in-Chief of OCEANOLOGIA
from 1983 to the present

Over the years the quality and form of OCEANOLOGIA gradually improved, and from 1996 onwards it was transformed into a quarterly journal (4 issues per year), accessible to authors and readers from all over the world, and from 2001 onwards in electronic form as well. In 2002 the journal fulfilled all the conditions necessary for entry to the Master Journal List and was duly added to it.

Since that time, the editorial staff, usually three or four persons, has changed from time to time, but a constant presence has been that of Sabina Szczykowska (Photo 4), Head of the Editorial Office and the journal's Technical/Executive Editor. Her tireless efforts to improve the quality of the journal, to ensure its punctual appearance and its ever widening international accessibility via the Internet and research databases, are deserving of the highest esteem.



Photo 4. Sabina Szczykowska,
Technical/Executive Editor of OCEANOLOGIA
from 2001 to the present

At present OCEANOLOGIA's annual impact factor hovers around 1: sometimes it has been much higher than that figure (it was 1.242 in 2011) and at times it has been a little less (e.g. 0.927 in 2013). The journal is cited in international research databases like DOAJ, EBSCO

and CrossRef. In 2014 digitised versions of every single archive article, beginning with issue No. 1 (1971), were made available on the <http://www.iopan.gda.pl/oceanologia/> website.

Finally, Peter Senn (Photo 5) has played an invaluable part in improving the quality of the journal with his meticulous English editorial revision of nearly all the issues of OCEANOLOGIA published in English.



Photo 5. Peter Senn,
English editorial reviewer of OCEANOLOGIA
from 1991 to the present

We hope that the cooperation we have undertaken with Elsevier and placing the journal in the Science Direct database will enhance OCEANOLOGIA's international position, increase the number of articles cited and raise the journal's Impact Factor.

Jerzy Dera